Journal OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL ISSUES

JOHESI



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Faculty of the Social Sciences
EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY

ISSN: 1118-8537

Vol.6 No.1, 2017

ISSN: 1118-8537

Journal of Health and Social Issues (JOHESI) Vol. 6 No. 1, 2017
Department of Sociology, Faculty of The Social Sciences
Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti (EKSU)

JOURNAL OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL ISSUES (JOHESI)

VOL. 6 NO. 1

JOURNAL OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL ISSUES (JOHESI)

ISSN: 1118-8537

Published by
Department of Sociology, Faculty of the Social Sciences
Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

Journal of Health and Social Issues (ISSN: 1118-8537):
JOHESI, domiciled in the Department of Sociology, Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti is a peer-reviewed Multi-disciplinary Journal that publishes scholarly works on contemporary sociological issues. Two issues of **JOHESI** are published per year, in March and September, by the Department of Sociology, Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti. The volume of Journal of Health and Social Issues, Department of Sociology (Volume 6, Number 1) covers a wide range of areas of research. The areas covered include theoretical and methodological issues, health, development, political sociology, deviance, gender, religion, family, industry, environment, urban sociology and demography. It is of interest that readers will find the contents of the articles in Journal useful as well as helpful in the further social research

Note for Authors

The Editorial Board of the journal uses this medium to call for well-researched papers/articles on relevant contemporary issues of sociological concern to be considered for publication in the next edition of the Journal.

Manuscripts Should Be Prepared In Line With The Guidelines Given Below:

- The cover-page should contain the title of the article while information on the author(s) should be on a separate page;
- Every article should begin with an abstract of not more than 250 words (Single-line spacing);
- Papers should be word-processed on A4 paper-size, double-spaced and limited to twenty pages inclusive of tables and references.
- Citations should be within the text with a list of references at the end of the article; - Reference should conform to APA style,
- Three hard copies and a disc copy (MS:-Word format) of completed article or electronic copy should be submitted with an assessment fee of N5, 000.00 (15 US Dollar) cash or in bank transfer for paper review or PayPal via owoshynah@gmail.com

- *An electronic copy can also be sent through: eksusocjournal@gmail.com*
- *Authors will be notified of the status of their manuscripts.*
- *Articles accepted for publication should be sent with a publication support fee of NI5, 000 (45 US Dollar)*
- *Every contributor will receive a copy of the journal in which his/her article is published. The views expressed in each article are those of the author.*
- *Articles accepted for publication will be published in every March and September Publication*

All Correspondence to:
Owoseni Joseph Sina
Email: eksusocjournal@gmail.com; owoshynah@yahoo.com
+2348066504953
Department of Sociology
Faculty of the Social Sciences
Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria

ISSN: 1118-8537

Journal of Health and Social Issues (JOHESI) Vol. 6 No. 1, 201
Department of Sociology, Faculty of The Social Science
Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti (EKSU

Editorial Board Members
Professor Olufayo Olu-Olu
Professor C. Oluwadare
Professor I. Owa
Professor Amos Ibitoye
Professor 'Wale Adesina
Professor E. O. Ogunleye
Toyin Adefolaju (Reader)

Editorial Consultants
Professor B. Salawu University of Ilorin, Ilorin
Professor D. C. Onwuamanam Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria
Professor Akinnawo Redeemer University, Ogun State.
Professor A. E. Davies University of Ilorin, Ilorin
Professor P. E. Igbinovia University of Benin, Benin City
Professor (Mrs) Wura Shokunbi University of Ibadan, Ibadan

ISSN: 1118-8537

Journal of Health and Social Issues (JOHESI) Vol. 6 No. 1, 2017
Department of Sociology, Faculty of The Social Sciences
Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti (EKSU)

CONTENTS

Inside	Page
Marginalising the Vulnerable Citizens: Medical Tourism, Exclusive Governance and Health Care System in Nigeria **Mike Opeyemi Omilusi**	1
Health For All Policy, Utilization Of Health Facilities And Maternal Mortality In Nigeria **Owoseni Joseph Sina**	13
Cultural Dynamics As Predators For Elderly Abuse And Neglect In Ekiti State **Abiola D.E.**	25
Examination Malpractice As A Social Phenomenon: Challenges And Legal Implications **Ijabadeniyi, Olasupo Augustine**	32
Leadership And Collective Attitudinal Re-Orientation In The War Against Corruption As A Necessary Fulcrum To Change And Sustainable Development In Nigeria **Oluyemo Catherine Ajoke and Lucy Iyabode Jegede**	40
Rural Areas: The Real Home Of The Nigerian Economy **Raji Abdullateef, Muhammed Abubakar Yinusa, Tejideen Toyin Olayinka, Mohmoh Musa Danjuma and Raji Abdulwasiu Adeyemi**	51
Work And Culture Interaction In An Organizational Context **Odedokun, A.**	57
Eradicating Child Labour Practices for National Development in Nigeria **Muhammed, Abubakar Yinusa.**	67
Roles Of Non-Governmental Organizations In Women Empowerment In Makurdi Local Government Area Of Benue State, Nigeria **Ojo, S. Stephen, Ayesoro S. Adesina and Ojile, O. Anita**	73
Unplanned Public Holidays And Economic Development In Nigeria **Odedokun, A.**	81
Gender Differentials In The Management Of Tertiary Institutions, In Ekiti State **Gbadamosi, Stephen Gbenga**	88
Sociological Perception Of Female Preferences Of Cesarean Section In Selected Areas In Ilorin Metropolis **Abdulbaqi Salihu Zakariya; Tejideen Toyin Olayinka; Adebote Adesola Aduragbemi Isiaq, Atanda Abdulwaheed**	99
Security Issues In Tourism And Hospitality Service And Management In Nigeria **Aina, O. S. F; Arohunsoro, S. J and Popoola, A. S.**	108

ISSN: 1118-8537

Journal of Health and Social Issues (JOHESI) Vol. 6 No. 1, 201
Department of Sociology, Faculty of The Social Scienc
Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti (EKSU

Local Government Reform and Rural Development as Perceived by the People of Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria.
Raji Abdullateef, Joseph Oluyemi, Mohmoh Musa Danjuma, Raji Khalid Olatunji Adeshina Ibrahim Olawale 114

Impact Of Terrorism On Women Development In The Northern Region Of Nigeria
Ojo, S. Stephen, Ayesoro S. Adesina and Ojile, O. Anita 121

Acquisition Experience And Behavioural Dispositions Of Employees In CNSSL
Olatunji, A.G, Atolagbe, O.E Ibrahim, A.K. and Lawal, E.E 127

Organizational Factors Affecting Employees' Commitment: A Study Of Global Soap And Detergent Industry, Ilorin
Abdulbaqi, Salihu Zakariya; Alaya Hafeez Ibrahim; Isiaq Atanda Abdulwaheed; and Balogun Obasanjo Solomon 136

Determinants of Self-Medication Among Pregnant Women In Ekiti State, Nigeria
Owoseni Joseph Sina; Joseph Gbenga Omole Michael Ayodele, Ibikunle 148

Road Safety and National Development
Adekeye, Deborah Shade and Ajayi, Olumide Abraham 155

Widowhood's Rites Among Yorubas of South West Nigeria: A Sociological Explanation
Oluwasanmi, Lawrence Adesuyi 162

Health Insurance Scheme–The Nigeria Experience
Michael Ayodele, Ibikunle 168

ISSN: 1118-8537

Journal of Health and Social Issues (JOHESI) Vol. 6 No. 1, 2017
Department of Sociology, Faculty of The Social Sciences
Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti (EKSU)

CONTRRIBUTORS

Marginalising the Vulnerable Citizens: Medical Tourism, Exclusive Governance and Health Care System in Nigeria
Mike Opeyemi OMILUSI
(Department of Political Science, Ekiti State University)

Health For All Policy, Utilization Of Health Facilities And Maternal Mortality In Nigeria
OWOSENI Joseph Sina
(Department of Sociology, Ekiti State University)

Cultural Dynamics As Predators For Elderly Abuse And Neglect In Ekiti State
Abiola D.E.
(Department of Sociology, Ekiti State University)

Examination Malpractice As A Social Phenomenon: Challenges And Legal Implications
IJABADENIYI, Olasupo Augustine
(Department of Social Justice, Afe Babalola University)

Leadership And Collective Attitudinal Re-Orientation In The War Against Corruption As A Necessary Fulcrum To Change And Sustainable Development In Nigeria
Oluyemo Catherine Ajoke and Lucy Iyabode Jegede
(Department of Sociology, Ekiti State University)

Rural Areas: The Real Home Of The Nigerian Economy
RAJI Abdullateef, MUHAMMED Abubakar Yinusa, TEJIDEEN Toyin Olayinka, MOHMOH Musa Danjuma and RAJI Abdulwasiu Adeyemi
(Department of Sociology, University of Ilorin and School of International Studies, Universiti Utara Malaysia)

Work And Culture Interaction In An Organizational Context
Odedokun, A.
(Department of Sociology, Ekiti State University)

Eradicating Child Labour Practices for National Development in Nigeria
Muhammed, Abubakar Yinusa.
(Department of Sociology, University of Ilorin)

Roles Of Non-Governmental Organizations In Women Empowerment In Makurdi Local Government Area Of Benue State, Nigeria
OJO, S. Stephen, AYESORO S. Adesina and OJILE, O. Anita
(Department of Social Development Nasarawa State Polytechnic, Lafia, Nigeria and Department of Agricultural Extension & Rural Sociology, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria)

Unplanned Public Holidays And Economic Development In Nigeria
Adefolaju, T and Odedokun, A
(Department of Sociology, Ekiti State University)

Gender Differentials In The Management Of Tertiary Institutions, In Ekiti State
GBADAMOSI, Stephen Gbenga
(Department of Sociology, Ekiti State University)

Sociological Perception Of Female Preferences Of Cesarean Section In Selected Areas In Ilorin Metropolis
ABDULBAQI Salihu Zakariya; TEJIDEEN Toyin Olayinka; ADEBOTE Adesola Aduragbemi and ISIAQ, Atanda Abdulwaheed
(Department of Sociology and Department of Political Science, University of Ilorin)

ISSN: 1118-8537

Journal of Health and Social Issues (JOHESI) Vol. 6 No. 1, 201
Department of Sociology, Faculty of The Social Science
Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti (EKSU

Security Issues In Tourism And Hospitality Service And Management In Nigeria
Aina, O. S. F; Popoola, A. S. and Arohunsoro, S. J
(Department of Geography and Planning Science, Ekiti State University)

Local Government Reform and Rural Development as Perceived by the People of Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria.
RAJI Abdullateef, JOSEPH Oluyemi, MOHMOH Musa Danjuma, RAJI Khalid Olatunji and ADESHINA Ibrahim Olawale
(Department of Sociology, University of Ilorin)

Impact Of Terrorism On Women Development In The Northern Region Of Nigeria
OJO, S. Stephen, AYESORO S. Adesina and OJILE, O. Anita
(Department of Social Development Nasarawa State Polytechnic, Lafia, Nigeria and ***Department of Agricultural Exten & Rural Sociology, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria)***

Acquisition Experience And Behavioural Dispositions Of Employees In CNSSL
Olatunji, A. G, Atolagbe, O.E Ibrahim, A.K. and Lawal, E.E
***(Dept of Sociology, University of Ilorin** and Dept of Political Science Federal University, Lokoja)*

Organizational Factors Affecting Employees' Commitment: A Study Of Global Soap And Detergent Industry, Ilorin
ABDULBAQI, Salihu Zakariya; ALAYA Hafeez Ibrahim; ISIAQ, Atanda Abdulwaheed; and BALOGUN Obasanjo Solomon
(Dept of Sociology, Dept of Political Sc and Dept of Criminology and Security Studies, University of Ilorin, Ilorin)

Determinants of Self-Medication Among Pregnant Women In Ekiti State, Nigeria
OWOSENI Joseph Sina; Joseph Gbenga OMOLE and Michael Ayodele, IBIKUNLE
(Dept of Sociology, EKSU; Dept of Physical Sciences, OAU, Ile-Ife and Department of Social Welfare Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development Ado Ekiti, Nigeria)

Road Safety and National Development
Adekeye, Deborah Shade and Ajayi, Olumide Abraham
(Department of Sociology, University of Ilorin)

Widowhood's Rites Among Yorubas of South West Nigeria: A Sociological Explanation
OLUWASANMI, Lawrence Adesuyi
(Department of Sociology, Ekiti State University)

Health Insurance Scheme–The Nigeria Experience
Michael Ayodele, IBIKUNLE
(Department of Social Welfare Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development Ado Ekiti, Nigeria)

ISSN: 1118-8537

Journal of Health and Social Issues (JOHESI) Vol. 6 No. 1, 2017
Department of Sociology, Faculty of The Social Sciences
Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti (EKSU)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AS PERCEIVED BY THE PEOPLE OF IFELODUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

Raji Abdullateef, Joseph Oluyemi,
Mohmoh Musa Danjuma,

And

Raji Khalid Olatunji,
Adeshina Ibrahim Olawale,
Department of Sociology,
Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Ilorin,
Nigeria.

Abstract

Local government is seen as the third level of government by the local government reform of 1976 in Nigeria, also backed by the 1999 constitution as amended. It was given the power to act on its own and at its own discretion with minimal control from the state government. It was also saddled with the responsibility of developing the areas that are close to it. However, it has met with various problems and challenges that have hindered its effective performance. These challenges have been attributed to the overriding function of the state governments, lack of autonomy, corruption and embezzlement among others. It is based on this that the study set out the objectives which include examining whether local government autonomy can lead to rural development; and knowing whether people's full participation in the democratic process of choosing their local government leaders will lead to rural development. The study then achieved these objectives by using a two-stage sampling method to select 200 respondents from Ifelodun local government of Kwara state, Nigeria. Conclusion was made from the findings based on the results derived from the chi-square calculated with the aid of SPSS, that local governments have not been able to perform their functions adequately majorly due to lack of autonomy. The research work recommended based on these findings that local governments should be given full autonomy and adequately funded for them not to become puppets for state governments.

Keywords: Local government/ Reform/ Rural development

Introduction

The local government in Nigeria is the closest government to the people especially those who reside in rural areas. It is most important institution which can be used as a tool for motivating and encouraging self-help in rural areas as well as helping rural dwellers participate in the process of decision making at the local level (Eluwa, 2012).

Local government in Nigeria according to Bello-Imam (2007) was established for four main purposes which include; furtherance of democracy that involves the people's participation, local autonomy, development of national unity and service provision such as road, healthcare among others which they can best provide compared to other government levels. He further stated that there are a number of factors that prevent the attainment of these purposes. These factors can be attributed to the inadequate and incompetent personnel, excess controls by both state and federal governments owing to the autonomy they lack, differing and conflicting orders from higher levels of government, inability of councilors and chairmen to actualize their mandate due to lack of determination as well as lack of adequate funds.

The importance of rural development as a catalyst in the general development of a nation especially a developing one like Nigeria is increasingly being given much attention. This is due to the fact that there is visible gap that exists between rural and urban areas when measured by distribution of resources, infrastructures, human resources and employment which have made rural development essential. This inequity has put rural areas in a disadvantaged situation in many sectors including the economy, politics and the likes. It has also

ISSN: 1118-8537
Journal of Health and Social Issues (JOHESI) Vol. 6 No. 1, 2017
Department of Sociology, Faculty of The Social Sciences
Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti (EKSU)

brought about rural-urban migration which is a major consequence of rural underdevelopment and this has resulted into increased unemployment in the city while denying rural areas workforce for agriculture at the same time (Zakariyau, 2014).

The 1976 reform of local government was designed to reshuffle local government with the aim of making the living standard of the Nigerian people better and helping the government achieve more effectiveness and efficiency at the lowest level where it is close to the masses. This modification of the local government had programs and policies which were directed towards the inhabitants of rural areas by encouraging higher knowledge and involvement of the ruralites in local government politics thereby harmonizing their interest and mandates. Also, the reform incorporated self-help which resulted into various projects intended for development such as provision of farm equipment for farmers, town halls, markets, health services, roads among others. This reform recommended that the local government be recognized as a third level of government for the first time and it provided statutory allocations to it from the federation accounts (Ogunna, 1996).

Statement of the Problem

The problem of local government not serving their functions is a pervasive and recurring one. This is due to the glaring underperformance of the administrators that are saddled with the responsibility of managing the government resources at the grassroots level for development of rural communities.

The local government reform of 1976 ensured a reasonable financial base, effective capacity of the executive as well as good structures and functions. However, it is unfortunate that states with the aid of their houses of assembly have delimited the existence of local governments through various laws. These states control the utilization of revenue through the state/local Joint Accounts commissions that was initially meant for adding value to local government by receiving a certain percentage of internally generated revenue of the state and thereby adding to that of local government. Instead of this, the state governments use it as a means of hijacking the local governments' share of the federation accounts. Personnel wise, the state governments have influenced the local governments to the point of appointing their own allies as care-taker chairman without having any respect for the provisions of the constitution for electing chairmen of local governments (Ogunna, 2007). A glaring example is one of Anambra state where there has not been elections conducted to elect local government chairmen or councilors. Another example is found in Rivers state recently where Governor Nyesom Wike sacked two local government chairmen in the state giving the reason that they did not perform participate in the activities that can improve the development of their areas (Akasike, 2017).

Raji et. al. (2017) argued that fluctuations in the oil prices which is a major revenue source of the nation has adversely affected the effectiveness of the Nigerian government and their delivery of services to the masses. These fluctuations have affected the country's economy adversely resulting into the downturn in economic activities of the country. This is what made them propose that rural rebound could serve as a permanent solution to economic recession of Nigeria and these rural areas in question are still underdeveloped which was one of the reasons for the local government reform.

Despite the enormous resources dedicated to development of rural communities, these areas are still underdeveloped perhaps due to the inability of local governments that are responsible for the development of rural areas to perform their functions up to expectations. It was expected of local government which is the third level of government to act as a medium through which quick and sustainable development could be achieved at the lowest level. So far, development has been an illusion due to the underperformance of successive local government councils in almost all areas or sectors. Mismanagement and misappropriation of funds are very glaring in local government across the country and apart from this, the resources which are supposed to be used for developmental programs at the local level to help develop rural areas are used in servicing elected officials' selfish interest and their godfathers who helped them into power (Obasanjo, 2003).

However, apart from the reasons stated earlier, the miserable failure of past Nigerian governments to solve the challenge of poverty and low standard of living among the rural people can be attributed to the incapability of the government to follow the due democratic process of governance at the local level. Not much attention has been paid to the fact that rural dwellers can serve as meaningful contributors to their own welfare development (Alila, 1998). Majority of projects done in rural areas are financed by external sources (such as statutory allocations

ISSN: 1118-8537

Journal of Health and Social Issues (JOHESI) Vol. 6 No. 1, 2017
Department of Sociology, Faculty of The Social Sciences
Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti (EKSU)

and non-governmental organizations) but these projects are not tailored towards the ruralites' welfare as they are majorly capital projects that are not people oriented.

Objectives of the Study

The following are the main objectives the study set out to achieve:

- to examine whether autonomy of local government can lead to rural development and
- to know if full participation of the local people in electing their local government leaders can lead to rural development.

Literature Review

Conceptualizing rural development and local government reform

Rural development is a very wide concept in terms of its scope. It entails multi-facet activities which include agricultural advancement, promotion of industrial activities in rural areas as well as the creation of proper structures that enhance enormous participation of people in the process of development (Ibietan, 2010). According to agriinfo.in (2017), rural development could be seen as process intended for making the standard of living of ruralites better. It is also a comprehensive process including the economical, social, and political as well as development of the sectors that are seen to be poor in a society. Magbounje (1980) depicted rural development as a process which is concerned with improving the standard of living of low-income dwellers of rural areas on a basis of self-sustenance through the transformation of the structures of their activities.

Local government is defined by the United Nations office for public administration as a section of a nation or state backed by law and has significant control over local matters which may include the power to enforce taxes or exact labour for specific purpose. The body that governs this entity is elected into power.

The local government reform of 1976 describes local government as the government at the grassroots level implemented via representative council created by laws to exercise certain powers in a particular area. With these powers, local councils should therefore be given significant control over local matters as well as the workforce and financial powers to instigate and direct service provision to the people. These powers also allow them to plan and implement projects in order to compliment the efforts of the states and federal governments in their locality. Local governments are to ensure that local initiatives and positive reactions to local needs are maximized with the aid of active involvement of people and traditional institutions.

The definitions above incorporate four major features of local government. The first on being that officials of local government are elected with periodic elections. Secondly, local governments must have their own legal personality which will make them distinct from state and federal governments. The third characteristics include the fact that local governments must have powers to carry out a series of functions and lastly, it must have the benefit of autonomy which means that it should have the capacity of making its own laws, devise its own plans and employ, promote and develop its own staff (Igbuzor, 2009).

Local Government Roles in the Development of Rural Areas

The local government which is seen as the closest to the rural dwellers is one of the paramount institutions for the generation, motivation and encouragement of self-government. Third world countries talk about rural development a lot due to the fact that the rural areas are characterized by unequal distribution of resources, lack of purchasing power by its citizens as well as inherent poverty which is very glaring and make the ruralites stagnant in the process of development (Ibietan, 2010). When local governments are assigned the task of governance, it gives opportunities to the rural dwellers for increased and better involvement in the process of democracy and decisions that affect their lives directly. In addition, empowerment of local governments ensure that municipals plans, programs and provision of services reflect the felt needs of the people at the local level better than the centralized system of government (Materu, 2001).

Furthermore, Jager (1997) asserts that there is the tendency for local governments to be more effective and efficient in project execution compared to other levels of governments. This is due to the closer supervision and greater control level of workers, shorter distance to sites, high scrutiny level and assessment level by the electorates as well as better accountability by the appointed or elected officials of local government. Also, local governments are in the best positions to mobilize and utilize resources of their respective areas because of their closeness to these resources. Moreover, local governments have

the upper hand in attending to the people's felt needs as they have the potentials to achieve consensus around the communities by settling disputes, building infrastructures, coming up with environmental programs among other functions.

According to Adebayo (2014), the various functions of a local government include the building, maintenance and employment of staff (including their payment) for primary schools in their locality, provision of public toilets, water supply, medical healthcare, and grassroots democracy. Other functions include the encouragement of people to participate in public affairs, serving as a channel for communication and also reducing the burden on the central government to serve the people.

However, there are challenges faced by local governments in the development of rural areas. These challenges have made them weak in their ability to perform their duties effectively and efficiently. According to Abah (2010), the terrible state of rural areas is worrying to the extent that many of the development programs and policies that have been embarked upon by local governments in recent times have not translated into an improved state of these areas. There is the problem of corruption which is very rampant in many of the sectors of the Nigerian society, be it public or private life. This corruption has therefore denied local governments of the needed material, human and other resources for developmental purpose.

Lack of Autonomy and monetary resources is another factor where many local governments experience continuous cut-down in their powers by the state governments. The excess control by state governments have reduced the functions of local governments to mere administrative work which has highly reduced the performance of many local governments in the development of their respective rural areas.

Theoretical Framework

This paper will be based on the premise of the Dependency theory.

Dependency Theory

This is a contemporary macro sociological theory which is used in sociological analysis that emerged in the 20th century, in the 1960s to be precise. Its major proponents include Andre Gunlder Frank, Samir Amir, and Walter Rodney.

Dependency theory is a theory which is used to explain the way non-industrialized nations have failed to develop in terms of their economy in spite of the huge investment made into them by developed nations. The major case made by this theory is that the world economy is very unequal in distributing resources and power because of factor like colonialism and neo-colonialism (Crossman, 2017). The theory posits that the main causes of global poverty are colonialism and neo-colonialism with developed countries exploiting their former colonies. Wealthy nations have exploited the poor ones long-ago and still doing so through foreign trade and foreign debt and this has caused the uneven development rate between them.

Application of Theory to the Study

The theory explains how local government reforms have failed in the development of rural areas despite high investment by the federal government. The major argument of the theory is that the world's economic system in the distribution of resources and power is highly unequal. Dependency theory thus recognizes that local government can serve as an agent of development in the improvement of the lives of the ruralites, manpower development as well as promoting a national development that is sustainable. Adeyemo (2009) posited that he construction of roads, markets; schools among others by local governments go a long way in the national development of Nigeria.

However, local governments have been deprived of the revenue they deserve by many state governors which is one of the reasons for their failure. Thus, local governments are at the mercy of their state governments financially, in terms of human resources among other factors. The fact that most of the local governments in the nation do not have autonomy to make decisions on their own is a factor that is detrimental to the development of their local areas. Also, they are at the mercy of the state governments because majority of them are appointed by the state governors as these states have made laws through their states house of assembly to override the autonomy of the local government as provided by the 1976 local government reform. The fact that they are appointed means that they need to be loyal and dance to the tune of the state governor and do whatever he wants thereby limiting their mandate to the orders they get from the state government. Local governments have little or no control over their own jurisdiction and resources as state governments have taken up these roles on the basis that local government chairmen are incompetent enough as we see in some states rendering the local government administrators more or less useless in terms of their functions.

ISSN: 1118-8537

Journal of Health and Social Issues (JOHESI) Vol. 6 No. 1, 2017
Department of Sociology, Faculty of The Social Sciences
Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti (EKSU)

Methodology

This study was carried out in Ifelodun local government of Kwara state, Nigeria. The headquarters of the local government is situated in Share town. Majority of the people in Ifelodun are Yorubas and mainly of Igbomina origin and they have roots from Oyo, Ife and Ketu. Ifelodun local government has an area of about 3,435km^2 with a population around 206,000 according to the 2006 census. It has eight (8) districts with about least 43 towns and villages. The districts include: Agunjin-Ora, Idofin, Igbaja, Ile-Ire, Oke-Odo, Omupo, Oro-ago and Share (mycyberict.com).

The research method used in this study was the three-stage sampling technique. This was used because of the rural nature of the local government where the majority of the people are illiterates. Thus, the cluster, simple random and judgmental sampling techniques were employed in selecting respondents. The first stage involved dividing Ifelodun local government into clusters (8 districts) where one community was randomly chosen from each district to make eight (8) communities giving each community equal chance of being selected. This was followed by the selection of 25 respondents who are educated and have knowledge of the study topic from each district.

Results

Socio-Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Demographic characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	141	70.5
Female	59	29.5
Age		
21-27	26	13
28-34	103	51.5
35-41	29	14.5
42 and above	42	21
Marital Status		
Single	22	11
Married	133	66.5
Widowed	32	16
Separated	13	6.5
Occupation		
Civil Servant	108	54
Farmer	41	20.5
Trader	31	15.5
Self-employed	20	10
Length of residence	59	29.5
1-5 years	80	40
6-10 years	61	30.5
11 years and above	200	100
Total		

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2017)

Results and Discussion

Respondents' demographic and socio-economic characteristics

Table 1 reveals the Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The distribution of the respondents by age shows that 13% of them fall into the age bracket of 21 and 27 years, a substantial number of the respondents representing 51.5% fall within the age bracket of 28-34 years, 14.5% are between 38 and 41years while the remaining 21% fall into the age bracket of 42 years and above. Data on the respondents' gender revealed that 70.5% of them are male while the remaining 29.5% are female. Majority of the respondents constituting 54% were farmers; 20.5% were civil servants; 15.5% were traders; while 10% were self-employed. A large proportion of the respondents representing 66.5% were married; those who were still single constituted 11%; 16% of the respondents were widowed while the remaining 6.5% were separated from their partners. Respondents' length of residence depicts that 29.5% have stayed in Ifelodun local government between 1 and 5 years, 40% have stayed between 6 and 10 years while the remaining 35.5% have stayed longer than10 years.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One

H_o - Local government autonomy cannot lead to improvement in rural social amenities

H_1 - Local government autonomy can lead to improvement in rural social amenities

Cross Tabulation of Length of residence and Local government autonomy can lead to improvement in rural social amenities

Length of residence	Local government autonomy can lead to improvement in rural social amenities					Total
	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
1-5 Years	4	18	7	24	6	59
6-10 Years	5	5	7	27	36	80
11 years and above	27	6	5	6	17	61
Total	36	29	19	57	59	200

$X^2c = 74.581$, Df = 8, $X^2t = 15.507$, Significance level = 0.05

Discussion

From the table above, it can be deduced that the $X^2c = 74.581$ is greater than $X^2t = 15.507$. This means that the null hypothesis which states that local government autonomy cannot bring about development in rural areas is rejected while the alternative hypothesis is accepted. The implication of this is that the people of Ifelodun local government of Kwara state agree that if local governments can be granted enough autonomy, they

will perform better in terms of providing social amenities for their rural populace.

Hypothesis Two

H_o – Periodic elections in local governments cannot lead to rural development.

H_1 - Periodic elections in local governments can lead to rural development.

Cross Tabulation of Occupation and People Should Be Granted the Mandate to Elect Their Leaders at the Grassroots Level

Occupation	People should be granted the mandate to elect their leaders at the grassroots level					Total
	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
Farmer	7	14	13	36	38	108
Trader	19	10	2	0	10	41
Civil servant	10	4	2	15	0	31
Self-employed	0	1	2	6	11	20
Total	36	29	19	57	59	200

$X^2c = 74.581$, Df = 8, $X^2t = 15.507$, Significance level = 0.05

Discussion

From the table above, it can be deduced that the $X^2c = 74.581$ is greater than $X^2t = 15.507$. This means that the null hypothesis which states that periodic elections in local governments cannot lead to rural development is rejected while the alternative hypothesis is accepted. The implication of this is that local governments would perform better if there are elections conducted for them rather states governors hand-picking them.

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the foregoing analysis, it is concluded that many local governments in Nigeria do not perform their functions adequately and they have not helped in the development of rural areas. This may be due to the overriding functions of their respective state governments as many of the state governments now perform the functions of local government thereby limiting the role of local government administrators to mere care-takers or mere figure-heads. This overriding function has also resulted in lack of autonomy where local governments have to wait for the states to give them orders on what to do.

In the light of these findings, the study then recommends the following:

- Local governments should be fully committed and responsible for their people by ensuring that and their financial dealings should be a reflection of the budgets they planned.
- In order to ensure the autonomy of local governments, the State/ Local governments Joint Accounts should be eradicated. When this is done, local governments can have control over their financial dealings and the development of rural areas could be fostered.
- Periodic elections should be conducted in these local governments in order to give the rural people the opportunity to participate fully in the democratic process at the grassroots level.
- Local governments should not be completely sidelined from other tiers of governments as they are created to relief the burden on the other levels of government.
- It should also be noted that local governments should embark on efficient and prudent spending and use of resources because they are the catalysts for development at the local level.
- Finally, the autonomy of the local governments should be ensured through periodic elections as it as it was found out that one of the main reasons for the underperformance of local governments is because some of them are appointed by state governors to whom they have to be loyal.

References

Abah, N.C. (2010). Development Administration: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach. Enugu: John Jacobs's Classic Publishers Ltd.

Adebayo A. S. (2014): *Local Government and Challenges of Rural Development in Nigeria (1999 to date).* IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS) Volume 19, Issue 4, Ver. I (Apr. 2014), PP 98-107 e-ISSN: 2279-0837, p-ISSN: 2279-0845.

Adeyemo D.O. (2009). 'Optimising Local Government Finance through Public-Private Partnerships'.Department of Local Government Studies.ObafemiAwolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun-Sate, Nigeria.pp. 2, 6, 11.

Agriinfo.in (2017): *The Concept of Rural Development.* Available at agriinfo.in/ default.aspx?page=topic&superid=7&topicid=1444

Akasike C. (2017): *Wike Sacks Two Local Council Chairmen.* Punch Newspaper Article May 14, 2017.

Alila P. O. (1998): *Strengthening Local Social System and People's Organization Capabilities for Local and Regional Development.* Regional Development Dialogue 19 (2) : 69-84

Bello-Imam, I.B. (2007). *Local Government in Nigeria.* Oyo State: Heinemann books.

Committee on the Review of the Structure of Local Government Council in Abuja, June

Crossman A. (2017): *Dependency Theory: The Effect of Foreign Dependency on Nations.* Thoughtco.com article, January 17, 2017.

Available at www.thoughtco.com/dependency-theory-definition-3026251.

Eluwa, I. J., Ikechukwu, E.J. and Ukah, F. O. (2012): *Rural Community Development in Nigeria- A Group Dynamic Perspective.* Interdisciplinary Journal of Contemporary Research in Business. Vol. 4, no 5.

Ezeani E.O. (2004) *Local Government Administration.* Enugu: Zik-Chuks Nig.

Ezeani E.O. (2006) *Fundamentals of Public Administration.* Enugu: Snaap press Ltd.

Fagbohun F. O. (2009). 'Lecture Notes on Concept of Development'. Department of Local Government Studies. Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun-Sate, Nigeria.(2009/2010 Session).

Ibietan J. (2010): *Role of Local Government in Rural Development Issues.* Knowledge Review Volume 20 No 2, April, 2010

Ifelodun Local Government Areas, Kwara State Government. Retrieved, 26th August, 2017.

Igbuzor, O (2009), "Making Democracy Work in Nigeria: The Civil Society and Constitutional Reform" in Bujra, A and Adejumobi, S (Eds), Breaking Barriers, Creating New Hopes: Democracy, Civil Society and Good Governance in Africa. Trenton, NJ, USA, Africa World Press, Inc.

Igbuzor, O. (2009): *Local Government Reform and Constitutional Review in Nigeria.* Available at Nigeria-local government.blogspot. co.ke/ 2009 /01/local-government-reform-and.html?m=1

Jager, Henry (1997): *Levels of Socio-Economic Theory.* Second Edition. Westport, Conn: Praeger.

Mabogunje, A. L. (1980) *The development Process: A Spatial Perspective.* London. Hutchinson University Library.

Materu, S. Jossy et al (2001): *Decentralized Cooperation and Joint Action. Building Partnership Between Local Government and Civil Society in Africa.* The Netherlands: ECDPM, Maastricht.

Mycyberict.com (2017): *Ifelodun L.G.A List of Towns and Villages Zip Codes*: Available at mycyberict.com/Nigeria_zip_codes/ifelodun/

Obasanjo, O (2003) An Address presented at the Inauguration of the Technical

Odo, L. U. (2012), "Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Nigeria: Re-thinking the Approach" *National Development Studies*, No. 5. Odo, L. U. (2014), "The Challenges of Local Government Autonomy in Nigeria", *International Journal of Advanced Studies in Ecology, Development and Sustainability*, Vol.2 No.1 January.

Ogunna A.E.C. (2007) *Basic issues in Community Development and Local government*, Versatile

Ogunna, A.E.C. (1996) *A Handbook on Local Government in Nigeria.* Owerri: Versatile Publications

Olajide OT (2004). Theories of Economic Development and Planning.Lagos: Punmark Nigeria Limited. pp. 6, 9, 10.Steytler N (2005). 'The Place and Role of Local Government in Federal Systems. Cape Town: KAS – New Publications, pp. 6, 8, 9.

Onah, F. O. & Okoli, F. C. (2002) *Public administration in Nigeria: Nature, principles and application.* Enugu: John Jacob's Classic publishers Ltd. publishers, Owerri.

Raji A., Muhammed A.Y., Joseph A.O, Abdulbaqi S.Z., Adeshina I.O., Sulaimon M.O. (2017): *Perception of Ijumu People of Kogi State of Rural rebound as a Permanent Solution to Economic Recession.* Nigerian Journal of Rural Extension and Development Vol. 11 (June, 2017).

ZakariYa'U I. (2014): *Assessment Of The Impact Of Local Government On Rural Development In Soba And Zaria Local Government Areas Kaduna State (2006-2011).* A Thesis Submitted To The School Of Postgraduate Schools, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, In Partial Fulfilment Of The Requirement For The Award Of Masters Of Science (M.Sc.) Degree In Public Administration, Faculty Of Administration, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. An unpublished work.